LVIII. *An Extract of a Letter of Monſieur* De la Lande, *of the Royal Academy of Sciences at* Paris, *to Dr.* Bevis, *dated there* March 26, 1762. *Tranſlated from the* French.

Read May 13, 1762.

I Have received, with a great deal of gratitude, *The Seaman's Practice*, which you were ſo good as to ſend to me. I return you my moſt humble thanks for it. I had never heard, that Norwood's meaſure had been printed ſo early as the year 1636; and I did not think, that before Newton, that is, before 1666, it was at all known. I aſſure you, that I will publiſh in our *Memoires* an extract of this book, in order to do homage to the labours of that celebrated Engliſhman, who had preceded us with relation to the figure of the earth. I am ſorry, that I have ſeemed to have been in doubt when I ſpoke of it, and that my book is already diſperſed: but I ſhall find an opportunity to repair this another time. In the mean time, do me the juſtice to obſerve, that I did not ſay, that Norwood's meaſure did not exiſt; but only, that Newton had no knowledge of it, as ſeems to reſult from the teſtimony of Dr. Pemberton, who relates, that Newton having had the notion of the attraction of earth upon the moon, was diverted from purſuing it, by obſerving, that the earth was too large not to produce a greater attraction. If any member of your illuſtrious Royal Society is offended with my reflections, I deſire you to

make my excuſes to him, and to aſſure the Royal Society of my moſt humble reſpects.

" J'ai recû avec beaucoup de reconnoiſſance le livre " de *Seaman's Practice*, que vous avés eu la bonté de " m'envoyer: je vous en fais mes trés humbles remer- " cîmens: je n'avois jamais oüi dire que la meſure de " Norwood eut eté imprimée des 1636, et je ne croiois " pas qu'avant Newton, c'eſt a dire avant 1666, on " en eut en connoiſſance. Je vous aſſure que je ferai im- " primer dans nos Memoires un extract de ce livre " pour rendre hommage aux travaux du celebre An- " glois, qui nous avoit précedé ſur la figure de la terre. " Je ſuis faché d'avoir paru en doute lorſque j'en ai " parlé, et que mon livre ſoit déja diſtribué par tout; " mais je trouverai bien l'occaſion de réparer cela une " autre fois. Cependant, faites moi la juſtice d'ob- " ſerver, que je n'ai pas dit que la meſure de Norwood " ne fut pas exiſtente, mais ſeulement que Newton " n'en avoit pas connoiſſance, comme il ſemble reſulter " du temoignage de Pemberton, qui raconte, que " Newton ayant eu l'idée de l'attraction de la terre " ſur la lune, en fut détourné ſur ce que il vit, que la " terre etoit trop grande pour ne produire pas une " plus grande attraction. Si quelqu'un dans votre " illuſtre Societé Royale eſt bleſſée de mes reflexions, " je vous prie de lui en faire mes excuſes, et d'aſ- " ſurer la Societé Royale de mes tres humbles re- " ſpects."

LIX. *Ob-*